Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a multivesicular liposomal particle composition of pre-determined, uniform size distribution, the process comprising:

~~a) pre-sterilizing all composition ingredients;~~

~~b~~a) providing a first emulsion by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent phase, said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid;

~~e~~b) mixing and emulsifying said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase to provide a second emulsion, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase;

~~d~~c) ~~removing~~ sparging the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of multivesicular liposomal particles, wherein the sparging comprises at least two steps having different gas flow rates~~of pre-determined, uniform size distribution~~; and

~~e~~d) ~~adjusting the concentration of~~filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow filtration~~,~~

~~wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein at least one mixing step is carried out in a mixer selected from the group consisting of dynamic ~~or~~ and static ~~mixer~~.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) The process of claim 2, wherein the static mixer is selected from the group consisting of ~~of~~ Kenics ~~or~~ and Koch ~~design~~.

Claims 4-5. (Original)

Claim 6. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the volume ratio of the first emulsion to the second aqueous phase is from about ~~0.05~~0.01 to about 0.5.

Claims 7-10. (Original)

Claim 11. (Canceled)

Claim 12. (Previously presented)

Claim 13. (Original)

Claims 14-16. (Previously presented)

Claims 17-19. (Original)

Claims 20-22. (Previously presented)

Claim 23. (Original)

Claim 24. (Previously presented)

Claims 25. (Original)

Claim 26. (Presently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein ~~said solvent removal comprises contacting the second emulsion with an inert gas flow~~mixing of the first emulsion is performed using impeller at a speed of from about 2,000 rpm to about 16,000 rpm.

Claim 27. (Presently amended) The process of claim 26, wherein the ~~solvent removal comprises a series of solvent removal steps, wherein the gas flow rate varies at different steps~~mixing of the first emulsion is from about 5 to about 100 minutes.

Claim 28. (Presently amended) The process of claim ~~2~~71, wherein a first ~~solvent removal~~sparging step ~~is characterized by~~has an inert gas flow rate that is less than that of a second step.

Claim 29. (Presently amended) The process of claim 28, wherein the gas flow rate of the first ~~solvent removal~~sparging step is ~~from~~ less than about ~~20% to about 50% that of the second step~~500 lpm.

Claim 30. (Presently amended) The process of claim ~~27~~29, wherein ~~a~~ the first ~~solvent removal~~sparging step ~~is characterized by an inert gas flow rate that is greater than that of the second step~~has a duration of from about 3 to about 30 minutes.

Claim 31. (Presently amended) The process of claim ~~30~~29, wherein the gas flow rate of the ~~first~~ second ~~solvent is removal~~sparging step is ~~from about 120% to about 400% that of the second step~~at least about 700 lpm.

Claim 32. (Presently amended) The process of claim ~~28~~31, ~~further comprising a third solvent removal step,~~ wherein the ~~gas flow rate of the third solvent removal~~second sparging step ~~is less than that of the second solvent removal step~~has a duration of from about 2 to about 10 minutes.

Claims 33-35. (Original)
Claims 36-48. (Canceled)

Claim 49. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a multivesicular liposomal particle composition of pre-determined, uniform size distribution, the process comprising:

a) providing a first emulsion by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent phase having a volume fraction from about 0.33 to about 1.6, said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid;

b) providing a second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase by mixing and emulsifying said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase ~~to provide a second emulsion~~ having a volume fraction from about 0.01 to about 0.5~~, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase~~;

c) ~~removing~~ sparging the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of multivesicular liposomal particles ~~of pre-determined, uniform size distribution~~; and

d) ~~adjusting the concentration of~~filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow filtration~~; and~~

~~e) sterilizing the multivesicular liposomal particle composition, wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~.

Claim 50. (Canceled)

Claim 51. (Original)

Claims 52-53. (Previously presented)

Claim 54. (Canceled)

Claim 55. (Currently amended) The process of claim ~~54~~49, wherein ~~all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions, wherein all solutions are sterile filtered prior to use, and wherein the multivesicular liposomal particle composition is immediately suitable for administration into humans~~the mixing is performed using impeller at a speed of from about 2,000 to about 16,000 rpm..

Claim 56. (Currently amended) The process of claim ~~54~~55, wherein the ~~resulting multivesicular liposomal particle composition is sterilized before filling, and wherein the multivesicular liposomal particle composition is immediately suitable for administration into humans~~mixing has a duration of from about 5 min. to about 100 min.

Claim 57. (Currently amended) The process of claim ~~54~~49, wherein ~~the~~ at least one mix~~er~~ing step is carried out in a static mixer.

Claim 58. (Currently amended) The process of claim ~~54~~57, wherein the first emulsion and the second aqueous solution are passed through the static mixer at a linear velocity of from about 100 cm/min to about 500 cm/min.

Claim 59. (Currently amended) The process of claim ~~54~~49, wherein the sparging ~~volume ratio of the first aqueous phase to the water-immiscible solvent phase is from about 0.33 to about 16~~ comprises at least two steps having different gas flow rates .

Claim 60. (Currently amended) The process of claim ~~54~~59, wherein the ~~volume ratio of the first emulsion to the second aqueous phase is from about 0.05 to about 0.5~~gas flow rate of the first sparging step is less than about 500 lpm.

Claim 61. (Currently amended) The process of claim ~~54~~59, wherein the ~~solvent removal comprises contacting the second emulsion with an inert~~ gas flow rate of the second sparging step is at least about 700 lpm.

Claim 62. (Currently amended) The process of claim ~~54~~59 wherein the gas flow rate of a further ~~comprising filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow filtration~~sparging step is less than about 400 lpm.

Claim 63. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a multivesicular liposomal particle composition of pre-determined, uniform size distribution, the process comprising:

~~a) pre-sterilizing all composition ingredients;~~

~~b~~a) providing a first emulsion by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent phase, said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid, using impeller speeds of from about 2,000 to about 16,000 rpm for about 5 to about 100 minutes;

~~c~~b) providing a second emulsion by mixing and emulsifying said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase ~~phase to provide a second emulsion~~, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase;

~~d~~c) removing the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of multivesicular liposomal particles ~~of pre-determined, uniform size distribution~~; and

~~e~~d) ~~exchanging buffer in~~filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow filtration~~,~~

~~wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~.

Claim 64. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a multivesicular liposomal particle composition, the process comprising:

~~a) pre-sterilizing all composition ingredients;~~

~~b~~a) providing a first emulsion by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent phase, said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid;

~~e~~b) providing a second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase by ~~mixing and emulsifying~~passing said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase through a static mixer at a linear velocity of from about 100 cm/min. to about 500 cm/min ~~phase to provide a second emulsion, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase~~;

~~d~~c) removing the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of drug-containing multivesicular liposomal ~~particles of pre-determined, uniform size distribution~~; and

~~e~~d) ~~removing unencapsulated drug in~~filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow filtration~~,~~

~~wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~.

Claim 65. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a multivesicular liposomal particle composition, the process comprising:

a) providing a first emulsion phase having a volume fraction of from about 0.33 to about 1.6 by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent, said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid;

b) mixing and emulsifying said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase to provide a second emulsion having a volume fraction of from about 0.01 to about 0.5, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase;

c) ~~removing~~ sparging the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of multivesicular liposomal particles of pre-determined, uniform size distribution~~;~~, wherein the sparging comprises at least two steps having different gas flow rates; and

d) ~~exchanging buffer in~~filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow filtration~~; and~~

~~e) sterilizing the multivesicular liposomal particle composition, wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~.

Claim 66. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a multivesicular liposomal particle composition, the process comprising:

a) providing a first emulsion by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent phase, said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid, wherein the mixing is performed using impeller at a speed of from about 2,000 to about 16,000 rpm;

b) mixing and emulsifying said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase to provide a second emulsion, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase;

c) ~~removing~~ sparging the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of ~~drug-containing~~ multivesicular liposomal particles of pre-determined, uniform size distribution~~;~~ wherein the sparging comprises at least two steps having different gas flow rates; and

d) ~~removing unencapsulated drug in~~filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow filtration~~; and~~

~~e) sterilizing the multivesicular liposomal particle composition, wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~.

Claim 67. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a multivesicular liposomal particle composition, the process comprising:

~~a) pre-sterilizing all composition ingredients;~~

~~b~~a) providing a first emulsion by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent phase, said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid;

~~c~~b) mixing and emulsifying said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase to provide a second emulsion, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous

phase~~;~~ wherein the first emulsion and the second aqueous phase are passed through a static mixer at a linear velocity of from about 100 cm/min to about 500 cm/min;

d~~c~~) ~~removing~~ sparging the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of multivesicular liposomal particles of pre-determined, uniform size distribution~~;~~, wherein the sparging comprises at least two steps having different gas flow rates; and

e~~d~~) filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow filtration ~~to adjust the concentration,~~
~~wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~.

Claim 68. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a multivesicular liposomal particle composition, the process comprising:

a) providing a first emulsion having a volume fraction of from about 0.33 to about 1.6 by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent phase, said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid, wherein said mixing is performed by impeller at a speed of from about 2,000 to about 16,000 rpm;

b) mixing and emulsifying said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase to provide a second emulsion having a volume fraction of from about 0.01 to about 0.5, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase, wherein the first emulsion and the second aqueous phase are passed through a static mixer at a linear velocity of from about 100 cm/min. to about 500 cm/min;

c) ~~removing~~ sparging the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of multivesicular liposomal particles of pre-determined, uniform size distribution; and

d) filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow filtration to adjust concentration~~; and~~

~~e) sterilizing the multivesicular liposomal particle composition,~~
~~wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~.

Claim 69. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a multivesicular liposomal particle composition, the process comprising:

~~a) pre-sterilizing all composition ingredients;~~

~~b~~a) providing a first emulsion by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent phase, said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid;

~~e~~b) mixing and emulsifying said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase to provide a second emulsion, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase;

~~d~~c) ~~removing~~ sparging the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of multivesicular liposomal particles of pre-determined, uniform size distribution; ~~and~~wherein the sparging step comprises

(i) a first step having a gas flow rate of less than about 500 lpm; and

(ii) a second step having a gas flow rate of at least 700 lpm; and

~~e~~d) filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow filtration to exchange buffer therein~~,~~

~~wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~.

Claim 70. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a multivesicular liposomal particle composition, the process comprising:

~~a) pre-sterilizing all composition ingredients;~~

~~b~~a) providing a first emulsion by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent phase, said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid;

~~e~~b) mixing and emulsifying said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase to provide a second emulsion, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase;

~~d~~c) ~~removing~~ sparging the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of ~~drug-containing~~ multivesicular liposomal particles of pre-determined, uniform size distribution~~; and~~, wherein said sparging comprises

(i) a first step having a gas flow rate of less than about 500 lpm;

(ii) a second step having a gas flow rate of at least about 700 lpm; and

(iii) a third step having a gas flow rate of less than about 300 lpm; and

~~e~~d) filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow filtration ~~to remover unencapsulated drug therein, wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~.

Claim 71. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a multivesicular liposomal particle composition, the process comprising:

a) providing a first emulsion by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent phase, said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid;

b) mixing and emulsifying said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase to provide a second emulsion, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase;

c) ~~removing~~ sparging the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of multivesicular liposomal particles of pre-determined, uniform size distribution~~;~~, wherein the sparging comprises

(i) a first step having a gas flow rate of less than about 375 lpm for about 3 to about 30 min.;

(ii) a second step having a gas flow rate of at least about 1000 lpm for about 2 to about 10 min.; and

(iii) a third step having a gas flow rate of less than about 250 lpm for about 2 to about 90 min.; and

d) filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow filtration ~~to exchange buffer; and~~

~~e) sterilizing the multivesicular liposomal particle composition, wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~.

Claim 72. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a multivesicular liposomal particle composition, the process comprising:

a) providing a first emulsion having a volume fraction of from about 0.33 to about 1.6 by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent phase, said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid;

b) mixing and emulsifying said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase to provide a second emulsion having a volume fraction of from about 0.01 to about 0.5, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase;

c) ~~removing~~ sparging the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of ~~drug-containing~~ multivesicular liposomal particles of pre-determined, uniform size distribution~~;~~, wherein said sparging comprises

(i) a first step having a gas flow rate of at least about 500 lpm;

(ii) a second step having a gas flow rate of at least 700 lpm; and

(iii) a third step having a gas flow rate of less than about 300 lpm; and

d) filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow ~~filtration to remove unencapsulated drug; and~~

~~e) sterilizing the multivesicular liposomal particle composition, wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~.

Claim 73. (Canceled)

Claim 74. (Currently amended) A ~~method for increasing the yield of a~~ process for making a multivesicular liposomal composition, the method comprising:

~~a) pre-sterilizing all composition ingredients;~~

~~b~~a) providing a first emulsion having a volume fraction of from about .033 to about 1.6 by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent phase, said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid~~;~~, wherein said mixing is performed by impeller at a speed of about 2,000 to about 16,000 rpm;

~~c~~b) mixing and emulsifying said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase to provide a second emulsion having a volume fraction of from about 0.01 to about 0.5, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase, wherein the first emulsion and

the second aqueous phase are passed through a static mixer at a linear velocity of from about 100 cm/min. to about 500 cm/min.;

~~d~~c) ~~removing~~ sparging the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of multivesicular liposomal particles of pre-determined, uniform size distribution~~; and~~, wherein the sparging comprises

(i) a first step having a gas flow rate of less than about 500 lpm;

(ii) a second step having a gas flow rate of at least about 700 lpm; and

(iii) a third step having a gas flow rate of less than about 300 lpm; and

~~e~~d) ~~adjusting~~ filtering the ~~concentration of the multivesicular liposomal particle~~ composition by cross-flow filtration~~,~~

~~wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~.

Claim 75. (Currently amended) A ~~method for increasing the yield of a~~ process for making a multivesicular liposomal composition, the method comprising:

~~a) pre-sterilizing all composition ingredients;~~

~~b~~a) providing a first emulsion having a volume fraction of from about 0.33 to about 1.6 by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent phase, said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid, wherein the mixing is performed by impeller at a speed of from about 2,000 to about 16,000 rpm for a duration of from about 5 to about 100 minutes;

~~c~~b) mixing and emulsifying said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase to provide a second emulsion having a volume fraction of from about 0.01 to about 0.5, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase, wherein the first emulsion and the second aqueous phase are passed through a static mixer with a linear velocity of from about 100 cm/min. to about 500 cm/min;

~~d~~c) ~~removing~~ sparging the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of multivesicular liposomal particles of pre-determined, uniform size distribution~~; and~~, wherein the sparging comprises

(i) a first step having a gas flow rate of less than about 375 lpm;

(ii) a second step having a gas flow rate of at least about 1000 lpm; and

(iii) a third step having a gas flow rate of less than about 250 lpm; and

~~e~~d) ~~exchanging the buffer of~~filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow filtration~~,~~
~~wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~.

Claim 76. (Currently amended) A ~~method for increasing the yield of a~~ process for making a multivesicular liposomal composition, the method comprising:

~~a) pre-sterilizing all composition ingredients;~~

~~b~~a) providing a first emulsion having a volume fraction of from about 0.33 to about 1.6 by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent phase, said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid, wherein the mixing is performed by impeller at a velocity of from about 2,000 to about 16,000 rpm for a duration of from about 5 to about 100 minutes;

~~c~~b) mixing and emulsifying said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase to provide a second emulsion having a volume fraction of from about 0.01 to about 0.5, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase, wherein the mixing is performed by impeller at less than about 2,000 rpm for a duration of from about 1 to about 10 minutes;

~~d~~c) ~~removing~~ sparging the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of drug-containing multivesicular liposomal particles of pre-determined, uniform size distribution~~; and~~, wherein the sparging comprises

(i) a first step having a gas flow rate of about 375 lpm;

(ii) a second step having a gas flow rate of about 1000 lpm; and

(iii) a third step having a gas flow rate of about 250 lpm; and

~~e~~d) ~~removing unencapsulated drug in~~filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow filtration~~,~~
~~wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~.

Claim 77. (Currently amended) A method for ~~increasing the yield of a process for~~ making a multivesicular liposomal composition, the method comprising:

a) providing a first emulsion having a volume fraction of from about 0.33 to about 1.6 by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent phase,

said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid, wherein the mixing is performed by impeller at a speed of from about 2,000 to about 16,000 rpm for a duration of about 5 to about 100 minutes at a temperature of from about 15° to about 40°C;

b) mixing and emulsifying said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase to provide a second emulsion having a volume fraction of from about 0.01 to about 0.5, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase, wherein the mixing is performed by impeller for a duration of about 1 to about 10 minutes at a temperature of about 20° to about 50°C;

c) ~~removing~~ sparging the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of multivesicular liposomal particles of pre-determined, uniform size distribution, wherein the sparging comprises

(i) a first step having a gas flow rate of less than about 500 lpm; and

(ii) a second step having a gas flow rate of at least about 700 lpm; and

d) ~~adjusting the concentration of~~filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow filtration~~; and~~

~~e) sterilizing the multivesicular liposomal particle composition,~~ ~~wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~.

Claim 78. (Currently amended) A method ~~for increasing the yield of a process~~ for making a multivesicular liposomal composition, the method comprising:

a) providing a first emulsion having a volume fraction of from about 0.33 to about 1.6 by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent phase, said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid, wherein said mixing is performed by impeller at a speed of from about 2,000 to about 16,000 rpm, for a duration of from about 5 to about 100 minutes, at a temperature of from about 15° to about 40°C;

b) mixing and emulsifying said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase to provide a second emulsion having a volume fraction of from about 0.01 to about 0.5, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase, wherein the first emulsion and

the second aqueous phase are passed through a static mixer at a linear velocity of from about 100 to about 500 cm/min ;

c) ~~removing~~ sparging the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of multivesicular liposomal particles of pre-determined, uniform size distribution, wherein the sparging comprises

(i) a first step having a gas flow rate of less than about 500 lpm;

(ii) a second step having a gas flow rate of at least about 700 lpm; and

(iii) a third step having a gas flow rate of leas than about 300 lpm; and

d) ~~exchanging buffer in~~filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow filtration~~; and~~

~~e) sterilizing the multivesicular liposomal particle composition, wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~.

Claim 79. (Currently amended) A method ~~for increasing the yield of a process~~ for making a multivesicular liposomal composition, the method comprising:

a) providing a first emulsion having a volume fraction of from about 0.33 to about 1.6 by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent phase, said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid, wherein the mixing is performed by impeller at a speed of from about 2,000 to about 16,000 rpm for a duration of from about 5 to about 100 minutes at a temperature of from about 15° to about 40°C;

b) mixing and emulsifying said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase to provide a second emulsion having a volume fraction of from about 0.01 to about 0.5, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase, wherein the mixing is performed by impeller at a speed of less than about 2,000 for a duration of form about 1 to about 10 minutes at a temperature of from about 20° to about 50°C;

c) ~~removing~~ sparging the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of ~~drug-containing~~ multivesicular liposomal particles of pre-determined, uniform size distribution, wherein the sparging comprises

(i) a first step having a gas flow rate about 375 lpm for about 17 minutes;

(ii) a second step having a gas flow rate of about 1000 lpm for about 5 minutes; and

(iii) a third step having a gas flow rate of about 250 lpm for about 28 minutes; and

d) ~~removing unencapsulated drug in~~filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow filtration~~; and~~

~~e) sterilizing the multivesicular liposomal particle composition, wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~.

Claim 80. (Currently amended) A product produced in accordance with ~~method for increasing the yield of a~~the process ~~for making a multivesicular liposomal particle composition, the process comprising:~~

~~a) providing a first emulsion by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent phase, said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid;~~

~~b) mixing and emulsifying said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase to provide a second emulsion, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase;~~

~~c) removing the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of drug-containing multivesicular liposomal particles of pre-determined, uniform size distribution;~~

~~d) filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow filtration to perform at least one process selected from the group consisting of concentration adjustment, buffer exchange and removal of unencapsulated drug; and~~

~~e) sterilizing the multivesicular liposomal particle composition, wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~of claim 63.

Claim 81. (Currently amended) A ~~method for increasing~~product produced in accordance with the ~~yield of a~~process of claim 64~~for making a multivesicular liposomal particle composition, the process comprising:~~

~~a) pre-sterilizing all composition ingredients;~~

~~b) providing a first emulsion by mixing a first aqueous phase and a volatile water-immiscible solvent phase, said solvent phase comprising at least one amphipathic lipid and at least one neutral lipid;~~

~~c) mixing and emulsifying said first emulsion and a second aqueous phase to provide a second emulsion, said second emulsion comprising a continuous aqueous phase;~~

~~d) removing the volatile water-immiscible solvent from the second emulsion to form a composition of drug-containing multivesicular liposomal particles of pre-determined, uniform size distribution; and~~

~~e) filtering the multivesicular liposomal particle composition by cross-flow filtration to perform at least one process selected from the group consisting of concentration adjustment, buffer exchange and removal of unencapsulated drug, wherein all steps are carried out under aseptic conditions~~.

Claim 82. (Previously presented) A product produced in accordance with the process of claim 1.

Claim 83. (Previously presented) A product produced in accordance with the process of claim 49.

Claim 84. (Currently amended) In a process for preparing a multivesicular liposomal composition comprising a ~~sterilization step,~~ preparation of first and second emulsion steps, and a solvent removal step, the improvement comprising ~~the further step of cross-flow filtration to adjust concentration~~removal of solvent by sparging, wherein the sparging comprises at least two steps having different gas flow rates.

Claim 85. (Currently amended) In a process for preparing a multivesicular liposomal composition comprising ~~a sterilization step,~~ preparation of first and second emulsion steps, and a solvent removal step, the improvement comprising ~~the further step of cross-flow filtration to perform buffer exchange~~the first emulsion having a dispersed phase to continuous phase volume fraction of from about 0.33 to about 1.6.

Claim 86. (Currently amended) In a process for preparing a ~~drug-containing~~ multivesicular liposomal composition comprising ~~a sterilization step,~~ preparation of first and second emulsion steps, and a solvent removal step, the improvement comprising the ~~further step of cross-flow filtration to remove unencapsulated drug~~second emulsion having a first emulsion to second aqueous phase volume fraction of from about 0.01 to about 0.5.

Claim 87. (Currently amended) In a process for preparing a multivesicular liposomal composition comprising ~~a sterilization step,~~ preparation of first and second emulsion steps, and a solvent removal step, the improvement comprising mixing the first emulsion using impeller at a speed of from about 2,000 to about 16,000~~the further step of adjusting concentration by cross-flow filtration~~.

Claim 88. (Currently amended) In a process for preparing a multivesicular liposomal composition comprising ~~a sterilization step,~~ preparation of first and second emulsion steps, and a solvent removal step, the improvement comprising ~~the further step of performing buffer exchange by cross-flow filtration~~passing the first emulsion and second aqueous phase through the static mixer at a linear velocity of from about 100 cm/min to about 500 cm/min.

Claim 89. (Currently amended) In a process for preparing a ~~drug-containing~~ multivesicular liposomal composition comprising ~~a sterilization step,~~ preparation of first and second emulsion steps, and a solvent removal step, the improvement comprising the first emulsion having a dispersed phase to continuous phase volume fraction of from about 0.33 to about 1.6 and being mixed using impeller at a speed of from about 2,000 to about 16,000 for a duration of from about 5 to about 100 minutes, and the second emulsion having a first emulsion to second aqueous phase volume fraction of from about 0.01 to about 0.5 and being mixed in a static mixer at a linear velocity of from about 100 cm/min to about 500 cm/min, and removal of solvent by sparging, wherein the sparging

comprises at least two steps having different gas flow rates~~further step of removing unencapsulated drug by cross-flow filtration~~.